

GET RID OF YOUR WAGON

(Luke 9:62 KJV) And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

God called us to put our hand to the plow, but a problem with many Christians has been that for years they are dragging a wagon instead of following the plow. I want to show you that in that wagon, many times there are things like jealousy, envy, strife, unforgiveness, the inability to forget that they have been hurt in the past.

Friend, if you let things in the past hinder your walk with God, you will never be of any value. You have to get up each day and say, "This is a new day." Whatever happened yesterday is gone, and whatever anybody has done to you, forgive them. I don't want any of you to be dragging a wagon. I want all of us to have a hand on the plow, eyes fixed on the high calling of God, pressing into the Kingdom of God, and seeing revival personally begin in our lives.

There is a shaking all over America. I travel in many states and in every one of the states there is a shaking going on. It is not man who is doing the shaking; it is God. God is shaking and separating unto Himself a people who desire to serve God with all of their heart.

Let's look at Phil 3:12-14:

(Phil 3:12 KJV) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (13) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

We can read this, we can quote this, but until we do this, we are going to have a hard time going forward. We have been dragging a wagon too long. It is full of things--full of hurts and things that we are just not able to get rid of. Sometimes we are not even consciously aware that these things are still there. We need to make a conscious awareness that we are forgetting those things that are behind.

I am reminded of Joseph. He is one of the greatest men that God ever used throughout the Bible. He was a type of the Christ. This man loved God with all of his heart. He loved his father and he loved his brothers. At his father's request, he went down to check on his brothers and to see how they were doing, because his father was concerned about them. Those brothers wanted to kill him because

1

Joseph was their father's favorite, but Reuben said, "Let us make a profit off of him. Why should we waste it? This is an opportunity to make some bucks," so they sold him to traders who took him down into Egypt.

Right about this time is when you call down fire from heaven, or say, "You dare to touch the anointed of God, and I am coming against you in the name of Jesus." Right? NO! What did Joseph do? He suffered silently the things that were bestowed upon him. As you follow along in Joseph's life, you see that he is thrown in prison because he withstands temptation with Potiphar's wife (Gen. chap. 39). You see later that he is exalted into the highest place of command next to the Pharaoh. You see that he becomes a person in great position.

When it comes time for that judgment to come back on those who have judged, whatever you judge will be judged again unto you. Whatever manner you judged is going to come home. These brothers had sold him out, and now they found themselves and their families in famine. Every one in the Israelite nation was in famine. Where do they go? They go to Egypt, and there they find one man, who has been set up by God to provide for them.

Joseph has a choice. He recognizes these men. He can either drag his wagon, or he can plow with the gospel plow. Every one of us has opportunities bestowed in our lives to get even, or to realize that we are already way beyond even. Joseph told his brothers that what they meant for evil, God meant for good (Gen. 50:20). Instead of bringing fire and indignation down on them, he brought them food and everything they had need of. He brought the entire nation of Israel into this great land of Egypt, and they were there for four hundred and 30 years and taken care of (Exodus 12:40-42).

They became fat and began to flourish because one man dared not to drag a wagon full of hate and anger and jealousy. He dared not to drag a wagon behind him full of self-judgment and self-pity, but rather he put his hand to the plow and he preached the forgiveness of God to his brothers. He showed the mercy of God to them, and he began to sow into their lives something they would have never known if he had been dragging a wagon.

We get hurt if someone says something we don't like, and instead of just letting it drop to the ground, and asking God to forgive them and praying for that person, and blessing that person who cursed us, praying for that one who despitely used us, we drag a wagon. Once you start dragging a wagon, it gets heavier and you don't notice it until one day you are found burned out. You are towed out from towing that wagon so long.

Joseph was a man of God who said, "I would rather have mercy than judgment. I would rather have forgiveness. I would rather have the blessing of God upon this family that sold me." So we see Joseph here, a man of God, raised up from nothing to sit on the throne of Egypt. Do you want to be great in the Kingdom of God? The Bible says you must teach and do the commandments.

God said to put your hand to the plow and don't look backwards. Many of us have one hand on the plow, and one eyeball straight ahead, and we are dragging this big old heavy wagon through that sandy soil, and wonder why we don't have revival. We wonder why we are so tired. We wonder why we feel the way we feel. We wonder why this has all come upon us. Let go of that wagon and get that hand in the air, and start shouting the victory. Put that hand on the plow and begin to say, "Bless the Lord, Oh my soul! HALLELUJAH! They meant it for evil, but God meant it for good!" Romans 8:28 is still in

2

the Bible.

(Rom 8:28 KJV) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Do you love the Lord? Are you called according to His purpose? One time I asked an old boy if he believed Romans 8:28, and he said, "Yes, I do. What does it say?" We have to catch onto this thing. We have to quit dragging the wagon. It is killing us. We fill that thing with our ministry too. We feel like we have to perform. We have to get it done. Psalm 127:1 says that except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

How about Daniel? Here he was in bondage, and what does he try to do? Does he try to get even with his enemies? No! He began to set an uncompromising example of living for God no matter what it cost. He ended up in the lions den, but because he would not compromise his stand for God, what happened? God raised him up; God exalted him and put him right into leadership (Daniel chap. 6).

Friend, when you are dragging around some grudges against your enemy, you are going to have some problems. You say that you are being persecuted and misunderstood, but you are dragging those things. God didn't say to put them in a wagon and drag them. He said, "Love them! Love your enemies!"

(Mat 5:43 KJV) Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. (44) But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

It is no wonder we are so tired. We have too big a wagon. God wants us to realize that this is more than getting even with your enemies, someone who did you wrong. God wants both of our hands on the plow, not one hand on the plow and one hand on the wagon.

God is saying to us, that just like Joseph who would not come with the spirit of bitterness against his brothers, instead he fed them and took care of them. Even Daniel would not come against his enemies, but rather let God use them in the way that seemed good to God, and when God got through with the lions den, He exalted Daniel.

A lot of what we put in the wagon is 'wondering'. I wonder what God has in store for me. I wonder what my call is. I wonder, I wonder. God said to just lift up both hands and shout. We don't need to wonder. It will come to pass when God is ready.

I drug a wagon for a long time, and little things piled up in there, and one day I felt like I had lead boots on and I wasn't going anywhere. I was tired with what was going on, and God said, "DROP THE WAGON!" God will tell you the truth if you will listen to Him. We can blame everybody for our problems, but if we are honest, look at what you have in your hand. It isn't a rod; it is the tongue of a wagon. You are dragging that thing right through the deep sand.

Joseph and Daniel were men who knew how to forgive. They were men who knew how to forget. They were men who knew how to bless. They were men who knew how to trust God. They were

3

living it.

I found out a long time ago that if I am busy serving Jesus, I haven't got time to worry about what everyone else is doing. If I am busy with my eyes on Jesus, and doing what He called me to do, I am so blessed and busy and excited, I don't have time to wonder about others. I pray for you and love you, but I don't wonder about you. I haven't got a red wagon for you to get in, so you have to get your hand on the plow, and get rid of your wagon, and start following the gospel plow of Christ.

People who have really been hurt, and won't carry that hurt over, are people who can really minister. They are people who are not looking for pity because of the way somebody treated them. That individual can minister to people.

I think about Joni Erickson Tada, the girl who was paralyzed from the neck down. Life dealt her seemingly a tremendous blow, but she does more than most ministers who have two good legs and arms. She is not in a self-pity mode. She took what was dealt to her, and she didn't drag a wagon behind her, grumbling and griping about it. She has written books, she has written songs, she has preached, she has sung, she has drawn beautiful pictures, and all she has the use of is above her neck.

If somebody says something about us, we go right out and buy a wagon. Amen? "Well, bless God, I am going to forgive you, but I am not going to forget it." You got the wagon. Don't come in the prayer line and say, "Oh, pray for me." I will say, "Drop your wagon and get both of your hands in the air. We are going on. Hallelujah!"

God wants a people who are not dragging a wagon. He wants a people who have their hands on the plow, and their eyes set on Jesus, and they are moving forward, and every opportunity they have they love their enemies. They pray for those who spitefully use them. They bless those that curse them. If they are smitten on one cheek, they turn the other.

(Mat 5:38 KJV) Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: (39) But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

When Jesus was preaching the Sermon on the Mount, He was not talking about a fairy tale. He was talking about a way to live. He was talking about a way of victory. He was talking about a way to live overcoming lives. "Well, Brother Krider, you have to understand..." Haven't you heard that, and also that, "God understands." God does understand, but that doesn't change it. We all have to stand approved by God.

All of us have experienced hurts and sorrows, but we have to put our hands to the plow more securely. Put the plow a little deeper, and say, "Let's go for God." You can't help but get honored when you have both hands on the plow. The only time you will get in trouble is when you are dragging the wagon.

Stephen was the first martyr in the Bible (Acts chap. 6 & 7; Acts 22:20). He was one of the men picked to be a head deacon, full of the Holy Ghost, full of faith and wisdom, good report both in and out of the

4

church. God gave him something to say, and he began to preach Jesus to a bunch of pharisaical outfits.

They said to Stephen, "We don't want to hear this," and he said, "That's tough. You didn't send for me, God sent me. You aren't paying the bill; God is taking care of me." They began to rail on him. They began to gnash on him with their teeth. I like what Stephen did. He said, "Listen, fellows, you are stiff-necked and uncircumcised both of the ears and the heart." He was saying what Jesus had said earlier. He didn't have a wagon behind him. He was plowing the gospel.

When you have that plow in your hand, sometimes it will get deep. It will tell the truth every time, but there are times when some of those old ruts are way down in that ground, that ground has gotten

hardened, and you have to sink that plow down in there, and with all of your power you have to follow that thing wherever that course goes, ripping up that soil so seed can be planted.

That is exactly what Stephen was doing. He was taking the gospel plow with both hands. He had no malice; he had no meanness in him. He wasn't saying those things to bring judgment upon them. He was saying those things to wake them up. They became angry and took him and decided to get rid of him, and they stoned him to death.

Just before he died, he saw the heavens opened up, and he saw Jesus standing there at the right hand of God. He didn't say, "Father, get even with these guys; bring down fire from heaven." He said, "Father, lay not this sin to their charge. They don't know what they are doing."

He refused to drag a wagon. He refused to drag anything behind him into the Kingdom. He refused to come into the presence of God with any kind of malice or envy or jealousy or strife. He came into the presence of God when heaven was opened, with his hands on the gospel plow, and that gospel plow had just ripped that religious root and brought it into light.

Those who had that religious root did not want him, but it worked because there was a young man standing there, consenting to his death, whose name was Saul of Tarsus, and it wasn't long until God began to work on Saul. It wasn't long until He blinded him and knocked him off his animal (Acts chap. 9). It wasn't long until he became one of the greatest writers of the word of God that has ever been written.

"Well, I don't want to bother people, you know." I have news for you. We are supposed to bother people. Christians are supposed to bother people. We are foreigners here. We are light in a world of darkness. We are love in a land of hate. We are joy in a world of sorrow. We are peace in a world of fear.

Sometimes that old gospel plow hits somebody's favorite little spot. If somebody has been stroking them, like "You are such a nice fellow. I'm so glad you gave that hundred thousand last year," then some guy comes along with a plow, and he said, "I'm going to tell you that you need a lot of help." Many pastors say, "How did I ever slip up and let that guy come in church and preach."

We have to quit stroking folks. That isn't what ministry is all about. That isn't what the preaching of the word of God is. That isn't what teaching the word of God is all about. It is to get that plow down deeper than it has ever gone before. It is to dig out those roots that are way, way, way down there. Amen?

5

Paul has to be one of my favorite guys. I can identify with him. He sticks his foot in his mouth sometimes. He doesn't care what people say about him. A prophet can come up to him and put a girdle around him and tell him all kinds of things and it is not going to hurt him at all. When Agabus came and put that girdle around him, that was a confirmation to Paul as to what God had told him earlier (Acts 21:4). He said, "I am ready to go bound into Jerusalem, and even to die for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:11-13).

When he gets locked up in Rome in jail, what does he do? He isn't bitter. He preaches Christ and the jailer and his household were saved (Acts 16:23-35). Prison isn't bad when you are living for Jesus.

Here were Paul and Silas. I don't know what Silas was thinking, but I know that Paul was thinking, "I know why I am here. God put me here." When he was in Thyatira, he delivered a woman possessed of the devil, and set her free (Acts 16:16-18).

I want to run around with men and women of faith. Maybe sometimes I don't know why I am where I am, but I know that I am with somebody that has some faith, and I will go with them. Let's begin to sing and praise God.

Paul and Silas didn't argue or complain and murmur. They didn't rail against the Roman Empire. They began to sing praises, and pray, and God began to hear that. That jailhouse began to rock; the doors came open. Those prisoners were so captivated by the hearing of the gospel and the praise of God's men they didn't want to go anywhere. The jailer came down and he was afraid for his life.

Paul didn't say, "You have it coming. God is going to send down a thunder bolt and just strike you dead." He didn't have a wagon to drag. He was busy with the plow. That is why he was in jail. He was plowing up somebody's money patch. Do you want to get people upset with you? Tear up their money patch.

Instead of being mean, they offered the jailer the salvation of God. You aren't going to do that dragging a wagon, looking back at all the things in it, and saying, "I've got a hundred pieces in my wagon. I've got one for everybody." The Master isn't going to pay you for dragging the wagon. He is going to pay you for plowing the field.

If anybody had a right to be angry, it was Jesus. He was suffering unjustly. He was being made a reproach unjustly. He was being beaten, spoken evil of, forsaken. But what did He do on the cross of Calvary? He wasn't dragging a wagon. He brought the gospel plow to maybe a hundred thousand hearts that moment. He said, "Father, forgive them."

That plow began to run from that cross to the hands of Paul and the apostles. Every disciple put his hand to that plow, and dug and dug deep for Christ. Do you know why? Because Christians do not have a right to be dragging a wagon. We need to have our hands on the plow, and to say, "Lord, let it run as deep as it will run. Let it tear up the stony ground, let it tear up the stony heart, let it root out the bitterness and jealousy. Let me keep both hands on it, and both eyes right ahead directly on what You have. Lord, don't ever let me start dragging a wagon."

God is not paying you to drag a wagon. When payday comes, it will be because you plowed the field. That will be the only reason. It will not be for how great you can preach, nor how high and loud you

6

can shout. It will be how faithfully you plowed the field. Let's get rid of our wagons. Let's burn them and put both hands on the plow.

Father, in the name of Jesus, it is not an accident that you bring us to words like 'wagon', but Lord, there are times when we are all tempted to begin dragging a wagon, feeling justified. Feeling like we have a right to feel the way we do, because we have been spoken evil of. We have been forgotten. We have been dealt a lousy set of cards in this life. But Father God, help us to overcome that temptation.

Let us more firmly than ever before put our two hands to the plow. Let that blade run as deep as it will run. Let it run until it takes out the root of bitterness, till it breaks up the stony heart, until everything that is not of You has been dug up and taken out.

Father, I thank You for the opportunity to speak for You, and to speak for Your wonderful people. There are times when You send warnings, because You love us. There are times when You send a spirit of laughter into our lives. God, we need to examine ourselves to be sure that we are in the faith, that we are not dragging wagons. Let us truly know that our payday will come when we are faithful to plow the field, to plant the crop, to water the crop.

Father, help us to not only be hearers of the word, but to be doers of Your word. We want to serve only You and to exalt You. We love You.

In the name of Jesus. Amen!